

# Catholic Theatre Conference

## PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 7

February 1948

No. 5

### SUSTAINING MEMBER #1

The Conference Constitution states in the section pertaining to the different degrees of membership that Sustaining Members, in addition to receiving the rights and privileges of members, will also have their names published at least once during the year.

Although previous issues have carried mention of four others our Number One Sustaining Member has not been listed. This month, however, we give them front page mention to carry an expression of our gratitude and appreciation for their far more than \$25.00 sustenance.

This Number One Sustaining Member is the New York Blackfriars' Guild. Thanks to their generosity the Conference Service Bureau has office space, the use of a typewriter, desk, file cabinets and the use of a telephone extension, all at no expense with the exception of payment for phone calls made.

Just recently the Blackfriars made a further contribution by making available at reduced rates two performances of 'Lady of Fatima' to be sold as benefits for the Conference.

It is generosity and cooperation of this nature that is the life blood of the Service Bureau. And so to Father Nagle and Father Carey and all the New York Blackfriars go our sincere thanks and deep appreciation. They truly are the Conference Sustaining Member Number One.

### LIFE MEMBER

The January issue of the Calendar was so filled with reports on decisions made during the Executive Board meeting that we purposely withheld this item for front page mention this month.

An Honorary Life Membership was conferred upon Sister Ellen of the Brown County Ursulines, our former Miss Helen Purcell. By this grant of honor she has been entered in perpetuity upon the rolls of the Conference membership with the following rights: to be forever exempt from annual dues, to enjoy the same rights as members and to be published as a life member at least once in the year.

This honorary grant is a small token of the esteem and affection we hold for our former Executive Secretary and is an expression of the gratitude and appreciation of her many years of unceasing efforts.

Sister Ellen is the second individual upon whom the Conference has bestowed a Life Membership. Mr. Emmet Lavery was so honored in June, 1947. This honor is awarded to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the Conference. It is within the power of each Executive Board to bestow only one Life Membership during their particular term of office.

## WEST-CENTRAL PLAY FESTIVAL

The West-Central Region will sponsor a two day One Act Play Festival for high schools on Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6 in the St. Louis University Law School auditorium.

Students from fifteen Catholic high schools located in three states will participate in a program to commence at 9:00 A.M. Friday with the staging of the first play by Loretto Academy of St. Louis.

Each session of three consecutive plays will be followed by a critical evaluation by a visiting judge and a panel discussion by the judge and the directors of the plays just completed.

A directing demonstration by Miss Maxine Schlingman, drama instructor at St. Louis University, will be presented to visiting high school directors at 6:30 P.M. Saturday. Mr. Bradford Whitney, director of the St. Louis Community Playhouse, will be guest speaker at a business and luncheon meeting to be held Sunday morning.

The entire festival is under the supervision of Rev. Robert A. Johnston, S.J., chairman of the West-Central Region and director of the Department of Speech, St. Louis University.

Visiting judges will be Rev. Karl G. Schroeder, Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, national president of the Conference and Mr. Leon Schlenk, drama instructor at Marquette University high school, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Missouri high schools participating in the festival are Loretto Academy, St. Louis University high, St. Joseph and Notre Dame of St. Louis; Glennon, Lillis and Bishop Hogan high schools and the Catholic Community Conference of Kansas City; St. Francis of Washington; St. Peter of Jefferson City; St. Brendan of Mexico; St. Peter of Joplin. Kansas will be represented by Mt. Carmel, Sacred Heart Junior College and Cathedral of Wichita, and from Oklahoma will come Monte Cassino of Tulsa.

The West-Central region comprises the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

.....From article released by:

James L. Lord,  
Public Relations,  
Department of Speech,  
St. Louis University

## BROADWAY COMMENTS

by Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

Angel in the Wings - The amiable Hartmans in a revue which incorporates their satiric dance turns in some very funny sketches and includes a take-off of Hildegard by Elaine Stritch. Good dancing by Nadine Gae and Peter Hamilton. Make Mine Manhattan - a New York City revue with charming local sets by Frederick Fox and the revelation of a new comedian, Sid Caesar, in two unusual recitations, also a song about the curious foods at 'Trafftz'.

\* Power Without Glory - One of the very best casts of the season, imported from London in a psychological melodrama of two brothers, their mother and the girl both love in relation to a murder.

Skipper Next to God - Very fine and moving play by Jan de Hartog, played by John Garfield - first for the Experimental Theatre and now moved over to Broadway. The struggle of a man to live up to the Sermon on the Mount at the expense of his own family. All male cast. (Problem - where to land some Jewish refugees?)

Street Car Named Desire - Extremely well acted nightmare - obscene with bathroom jokes. Tennessee Williams has used most of the devices that were effective in 'Glass Menagerie'.

Strange Bedfellows - Suffragette comedy set in San Francisco in the '90's with amusing setting and costumes and an excellent opening situation which deteriorates into bawdiness by Act II. Too bad because it has idea and a good cast.

\* Cradle Will Rock - This musical about trade unions opened with Alfred Drake, who will be with it for a short period.

\* Crime and Punishment - Elaborately staged dramatization of Dostoevsky in which Gielgud as Rodion is sometimes lost in the surging population of the lodging house but in which Lillian Gish emerges very poignantly as Katerina.

\* Closed.

\*\*\*\*\*

There are still over 1,000 copies of the 1947 BULLETIN on hand and a deficit on the printing bill. Are YOU trying to dispose of some by interesting your members in having their own individual copy at fifty cents?

**"GENTLEMAN FROM ATHENS"  
MANUSCRIPT AVAILABLE**

Answering a request of ours for a copy of his play, 'Gentleman from Athens', Emmet Lavery generously responded with a manuscript copy. The play will be published by Samuel French but in the meantime the manuscript is available to Conference members. For the time being there will be no royalty reductions and production rights must be cleared through Samuel French.

Mr. Lavery has dedicated the published version to 'The Theatre Beyond Broadway' and has written an interesting 'Author's Foreword'.

Excerpts from the foreword have this to say: "Here is a play that I believe in.....I hope you like it as much as I do.....It was the theatre beyond Broadway which gave 'The First Legion' its largest audiences and it was the theatre beyond Broadway (Chicago excepted), which, in its second season, gave 'The Magnificent Yankee' its best notices. It is the theatre beyond Broadway - and more specifically, the college, the community and the summer theatre - which will give 'The Gentleman from Athens' its best support".

Conference members are given recognition for the part they played in first productions of Mr. Lavery's plays with the following comments: "It was the Catholic Theatre Guild of Pittsburgh which first produced 'Kamiano', the play on Damien; the seminarians at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago who first presented 'Brother Petroc's Return'; the Catholic Theatre Guild of Los Angeles, with a production featuring Margaret Wycherly, which started 'Murder in a Nunnery' on its joyous way.... ...I believe now, as I have believed for years, that there is always an audience for a good play somewhere but I am beginning to realize something else as well. The theatre beyond Broadway is beginning to overshadow the theatre on Broadway.....It has great diversity and, like the ivy on college walls, it has a way of lasting. It has continuity of existence. It survives".

\*\*\*\*\*

Many thanks to those directors who followed the suggestion made in last month's Calendar to pass along to the Service Bureau Library copies of scripts of completed productions. Perhaps others will do likewise along with reports on audience reaction and reception.

**PAST PRODUCTIONS  
HERE AND THERE**

Conn., W. Hartford - Queen's Company of St. Joseph College - ROMEO AND JULIET - Jan. 30 and 31.

Davenport, Iowa - Marycrest and Saint Ambrose - TOVARICH - Jan. 18 and 19.

Kansas, Wichita - Cathedral High School, last week of January Senior dramatics class - CRASHING SOCIETY. CLEAN OF HEART at Christmas time.

Kentucky, Covington - Catholic Theatre Guild of Northern Kentucky - MY MARYLAND - January 30, 31 and February 1.

Mass., Woburn - SONG OF BERNADETTE, January 20 by Passion Players Guild.

Mich., Wayne - St. Mary's Theatre Guild presented JANUARY THAW - Jan. 25 & 26.

Minn., Minneapolis - Academy of Holy Angels - Sophomores - THE SLEEPING BEAUTY OF LORELAND - January 18.

Minn., St. Joseph - College of Saint Benedict Ardeleons - OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY - January 18.

Missouri, St. Louis - The Playhouse Club of St. Louis University - GREEN GROW THE LILACS - Dec. 13, 14 and 15 in their auditorium which had received a \$30,000 face-lifting!

New Jersey, Jersey City - Gothic Players - WE SHOOK THE FAMILY TREE - January 11 and 12.

New York, Kenmore - Mount St. Mary - ALICE IN WONDERLAND - January 7.

New York, Rochester - Holy Redeemer Parish Theatre Guild - ONLY AN ORPHAN GIRL and CUCKOOS ON THE HEARTH.

Ohio, Dayton - Blackfriars - THE BRIDE REGRETS.

Penna., Philadelphia - Philopatrian Guild - THE LATE CHRISTOPHER BEAN - Jan. 22, 23 and 24. Additional performances at various Veterans' Hospitals on the USO Hospital Circuit.

Washington, D.C. - Catholic University presented two week run of BRIDE OF DARKNESS in their new theatre. Produced previously under the title 'Stranger at the Gate' during summer of '43.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you considered doing a Benefit Performance for the Conference treasury?

\*\*\*\*\*

## CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

- Conn., Putnam - Annhurst College - February 10 - THE SLOW POKE.
- Illinois, Chicago - Immaculata High School - WORLD WITHOUT END.
- Iowa, Davenport - THE GONDOLIERS - February 8 and 8 by St. Ambrose and Immaculate Conception Academy. UNDERTOW, SKIN DEEP and THE GIRL FROM NOWHERE - Feb. 23 by Cameo Sophomores of Immaculate Conception. Also THE NECKLACE IS MINE, ALICE BLUE GOWN and SILENCE, PLEASE on Feb. 28.
- Iowa, Dubuque - Loras College Players in YEARS AGO - Feb. 8 and 9.
- Iowa, Dyersville - Xavier Players - Feb. 1 and 3 - OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY.
- Kansas, Wichita - Dramasquers Catholic Community Theatre - RESPECTFULLY YOURS, February 6.
- Kansas, Wichita - Mime-Interp Club of Sacred Heart Academy - CRADLE SONG - February 23.
- Mass., Cambridge - Matignon High School - Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 3 and 4 - EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES.
- Mass., Chestnut Hill - Boston College - Feb. 6 and 7 - ROMEO AND JULIET.
- Mass., Watertown - Rosary Academy - Feb. 5 - LITTLE WOMEN.
- Mass., Woburn - Passion Players Guild - over 25 performances of THE MAN OF SORROWS during the Lenten season.
- Mich., Detroit - Catholic Theatre of Detroit - Feb. 5, 6 and 7 - LADIES IN RETIREMENT at the Art Institute. The Children's Stage presented three performances of OLIVER TWIST on Feb. 6 and 7.
- Minn., Minneapolis - Academy of the Holy Angels - END AND BEGINNING on Feb. 8. On Feb. 22 - THE PRINCE WHO WAS A PIPER and DID YOU SAY MINK? by the Sophomore and Junior Dramatic Classes together with a selection of readings given by members of the private dramatic class - SWAMPLANDS, MOTHER FINGERS and A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY.
- Minn., Bird Island - St. Mary's - One Act Play Tournament consisting of six plays, student directed.... three outside judges to select best play and an all star cast.
- Missouri, Kansas City - Lillis High School - THE SHOW-OFF - Feb. 9 and 10.
- Montreal - Cathespian Guild - STARDUST - February 4, 5 and 6.
- Montreal - St. Aloysius Dramatic Society OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY - Feb. 2 and 3 celebrating 40th anniversary of the parish.
- New York, N.Y. - Blackfriars - 43 performances of LADY OF FATIMA by Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P., Feb. 12 through March 23.
- Brooklyn, N.Y. - St. John's University Stagers - THE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND by Frank Ford, resident playwright of Fordham University - Feb. 19 at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Previously presented at Catholic University summer of '47.
- New York, Fordham University - AARON SLICK FROM PUNKIN' CRICK - Jan. 29-30-31 and Feb. 1-5-6-7 and 8.
- New York, Rochester - Holy Redeemer Parish Theatre Guild - CRADLE SONG.
- Ohio, Canton - Mount Marie Academy - Feb. 2 and 3 - OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY.
- Ohio, Cincinnati - Mother of Mercy High - CINDERELLA OF LORELAND in early Feb.
- Ohio, Toledo - Mary Manse College - Feb. 6 and 7 - PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.
- South Dakota, Sturgis - St. Martin's Academy - TWO MINUTES TO GO - Feb. 2 and 4 by the Junior Class.
- Wisconsin, Racine - St. Catherine's High School - OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY - 9 performances, Feb. 7 through 15. Cast attended "Lady Windemere's Fan" on Jan. 23 to interview Cornelia Otis Skinner.
- \*\*\*\*\*

### See MARCH issue for:

- Invitational article by Emmet Lavery on the Value of Benefit Performances.
- Plans for forthcoming Regional Activities.
- New Scripts added to Library.
- Interesting Sidelights on Productions throughout the Country.
- Reviews of current Broadway plays.
- A round-up of what's being produced on our Cross Country Circuit.

\*\*\*\*\*

